

Testimony from Maggie Goodwin board member of **CT Chapter of National Organization for Women in support of HB 6374** requiring CT colleges and universities to conduct anonymous sexual misconduct surveys every two years.

HB 6374 requires colleges to conduct anonymous sexual misconduct surveys every two years. The bill would enable Ct colleges to collect information about sexual violence incidents on campus and establish a council with appointed members ranging from students to higher education officials who will be required to submit a report about the surveys to the General Assembly every two years. NOW CT suggests these climate surveys will help gather information that can be used to access the campus climate information and identify difficulties that need to be addressed.

Another part of the bill provides amnesty to those who report an assault so they will not be “subject to disciplinary action for violation of a policy of the institution of higher education prohibiting the use of drugs or alcohol.” As said Rep. Jane Garibay, D-Windsor was quoted in Ct Mirror as saying is “this portion of the bill is imperative to tear down the stigma of substance abuse during sexual assault “

NOW CT suggests this bill will foster a safer more welcoming environment for survivors of sexual violence and the CT chapter of the National Organization for Women asks for the committee’s support of HB6473.

“In order to foster a safer, more welcoming environment for survivors of sexual violence, it is imperative that ... the stigma of substance abuse during sexual assault be torn down. That is what part of this bill does,”